

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 COA-01 SCI-03 NSF-01 NSC-07

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R 080756Z MAR 74 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7924
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
CINCLANT
CINCUSNAVEUR
USNMR SHAPE
CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 OSLO 0989

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN SV UR NO

SUBJ: SOVIET-NORWEGIAN NEGOTIATIONS ON ARCTIC
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

REF: A) OSLO 620 (NOTAL); B) STATE 36470 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: MFA'S ADVISER ON POLAR AFFAIRS, BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN
BRIEFED DCM MARCH 6 ON RECENT NEGOTIATIONS (FEB 25-27) WITH
SOVIETS REGARDING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE ARCTIC. TO
NORWEGIAN SURPRISE, SOVIETS DID NOT PRESS PROPOSAL FOR AIR
RECONNAISSANCE OF THE ARCTIC ICE FLOES, IMPLYING THEY PLANNED
TO RAISE SUBJECT LATER IN THE MULTILATERAL CONTEXT OF THEIR
POLEX PROPOSAL (REFTELS). THEY RESISTED NORWEGIAN EFFORTS
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TO EXTEND FRAMEWORK OF DISCUSSION BEYOND SVALBARD TO SOVIET

AREAS OF THE ARCTIC. NORWEGIANS IN TURN RESISTED REPEATED SOVIET EFFORTS TO DISCUSS JOINT GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FOR OIL ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF BY ARGUING ANY DISCUSSION OF THIS QUESTION MUST AWAIT DIVISION OF THE SHELF. FINALLY, IN APPROACH OUTSIDE THE TALKS, SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND CHIEF DELEGATE ROMANOVSKIY PRESENTED NORWEGIANS WITH A DRAFT AGREEMENT PROPOSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP BETWEEN NORWEGIAN POLAR INSTITUTE AND THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO UNDERTAKE A WIDE RANGE OF SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS.

ACTION: NORWEGIANS HAVE ASKED INFORMALLY FOR OUR REACTION TO THE SOVIET PROPOSALS, NOTABLY FOR ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP. ANY CAUTIONING OR OTHER COMMENTS WHICH EMBASSY CAN PASS ON, BASED ON USG EXPERIENCE, WOULD BE APPRECIATED. END SUMMARY.

1. SOVIETS MADE CLEAR BY THEIR TACTICS AND FACT THEY APPOINTED AMBASSADOR ROMANOVSKIY TO HEAD SOVIET DELEGATION THAT THEIR INTEREST IN THESE OSTENSIBLY SCIENTIFIC TALKS WAS ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL. BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN COMMENTED ON HOW OBVIOUSLY INTIMIDATED ALL THE SCIENTISTS ON THE DELEGATION WERE BY ROMANOVSKIY. DELEGATION CONSISTED OF G.A.AVCHUK (LEADING LENINGRAD ARCTIC SCIENTIST), V.D.ELISEEV (STATE COMMITTEE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND APPARENTLY THE POLICEMAN), G.I.MATVECHUK (CHIEF OF THE ARCTIC, ANTARCTIC AND OCEANIC DIRECTORATE OF HYDROMET, WHO MADE EXCELLENT IMPRESSION), B.A.ULYANNINSKIY (CHIEF OF ARKTIKUGOL), AND V.C.TOLSTOV (MFA'S NORWEGIAN DESK OFFICER).

2. A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING WAS SIGNED FEBRUARY 28 BY THE HEADS OF DELEGATION, ROMANOVSKIY AND PROF. GJELSVIK, DIRECTOR OF NORWEGIAN POLAR INSTITUTE. IT WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED AND, TO EMPHASIZE ITS UNOFFICIAL CHARACTER, NORWEGIAN TEXT DESCRIBES IT SIMPLY AS "MINUTES OF MEETING" (MOTEREFERAT). THE RUSSIAN, "PROTOKOL" HAS A MORE FORMAL RING. TEXT STATES THAT SOVIET AND NORWEGIAN SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS WILL DISCUSS DIFFERENT POSSIBLE AREAS OF COOPERATION (E.G. GEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS ON SVALBARD, GLACIOLOGICAL AND ICE CAP RESEARCH, GEOMAGNETIC PROBLEMS, PALEOMAGNETIC OBSERVATIONS ETC) WITH AN EYE TO "EVENTUAL AGREEMENT." (TEXT BY SEPTTEL) BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN NOTED THAT NORWEGIAN SIDE IS NOT COMMITTED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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UNDERTAKE ANY SPECIFIC PROJECTS. THE SOVIET LIST OF 26 POSSIBLE PROJECTS WAS FARMED OUT TO VARIOUS NORWEGIAN INSTITUTIONS FOR COMMENT AFTER IT WAS RECEIVED IN MAY 1973 (EARLIER THAN WE WERE ORIGINALLY LED TO UNDERSTAND). NORWEGIAN INSTITUTIONS WILL NOW BE ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT THEIR SOVIET OPPOSITE NUMBERS TO DISCUSS ANY PROJECTS IN WHICH THEY HAVE AN INTEREST.

3. THERE WERE FOUR AREAS IN WHICH DISCUSSION WAS STICKY:

A. GEOGRAPHIC FRAMEWORK OF THE TALKS: THE SOVIETS WERE OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED TO FOCUS DISCUSSION ON SVALBARD AND THEY RESISTED NORWEGIAN EFFORTS TO BROADEN THE AREA COVERED BY THE TALKS TO THE ARCTIC. COMPROMISE LANGUAGE IN THE SUMMARY OF THE MEETING REFERS TO "ADJACENT AREAS." OFTEN WHEN THE SOVIETS WERE ON WEAK GROUND IN PRESSING FOR RESEARCH DEVOTED SOLELY TO SVALBARD, OPPOSING NORWEGIAN PROPOSALS TO EXTEND THE PROJECT TO ARCTIC AREAS UNDER SOVIET JURISDICTION, THEY DROPPED THE PROJECT. SOVIETS HAD GREATEST DIFFICULTY IN FINDING ARGUMENTS AGAINST COOPERATION IN NEW AREAS NOT PRESENTLY THE SUBJECT OF RESEARCH ON SVALBARD; THE NORWEGIANS HAD DIFFICULTY, HOWEVER, IN REJECTING SOVIET ARGUMENTS THAT THE TWO SIDES SHOULD AT LEAST COORDINATE THEIR RESEARCH ON SVALBARD IN THE INTEREST OF ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY.

B. AIR RECONNAISSANCE. TO NORWAY'S SURPRISE, SOVIETS DID NOT PRESS THEIR PROPOSAL FOR AIR RECONNAISSANCE OF THE ICE FLOWS. NORWEGIANS TOLD THE SOVIETS, HOWEVER, THAT THEY PLANNED TO BEGIN REGULAR RECONNAISSANCE OF ICE FLOWS BETWEEN SVALBARD AND JAN MAYEN ISLAND AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE THE SOVIETS WITH THE RESULTS OF THEIR SURVEYS--PROVIDED THEY RECEIVED SOVIET REPORTS ON ICE MOVEMENTS IN THE AREA OF FRANZ JOSEPH LAND. SOVIET SIDE INDICATED THAT IT WOULD COME BACK TO THIS QUESTION AT A LATER DATE, AND IMPLIED THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE LARGER CONTEXT OF MULTILATERAL POLEX PROJECT. (COMMENT: NORWEGIANS WERE GRATEFUL FOR THE INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTTEL B, PASSED TO THEM PRIOR TO OPENING OF TALKS.)

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 COA-03 SCI-03 NSF-01 NSC-07

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7925
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
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CINCUSNAVEUR
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C. EQUAL TREATMENT OF ALL PARTIES. SOVIETS WERE NOT HAPPY WITH NORWAY'S INSISTENCE THAT ANY RESEARCH PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN ON SVALBARD BY USSR OR NORWAY SHOULD BE OPEN TO PARTICIPATION BY OTHER SIGNATORIES OF 1920 TREATY. SOVIETS ARGUED THAT OTHER SIGNATORIES SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO "GET A FREE RIDE" IF A PROJECT INVOLVED SUBSTANTIAL EXPENSE. (COMPROMISE LANGUAGE IN THE SUMMARY OF THE MEETING STATED THAT OTHER SIGNATORIES COULD PARTICIPATE IN A PROJECT "IF THE PARTIES (I.E. NORWAY AND USSR) AGREE TO IT."

D. JOINT RESEARCH FOR OIL. SOVIETS PRESSED VERY HARD FOR A PROJECT OF JOINT RESEARCH FOR OIL ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF. NORWEGIANS TOLD THEM THERE COULD BE NO DISCUSSION OF THIS QUESTION UNTIL AGREEMENT WAS FIRST CONFIDENTIAL

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REACHED ON PARTITION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF. THEY ADDED THAT THEY WOULD NOT EXCLUDE COOPERATION IN OIL EXPLORATION SHOULD THE ISSUE OF DIVIDING THE SHELF BE RESOLVED, BUT NOTED THAT ANY EXPLORATION WOULD HAVE TO APPLY TO THE SOVIET AS WELL AS THE NORWEGIAN AREA OF THE SHELF.

4. AFTER DISCUSSING THE VARIOUS AREAS OF POSSIBLE COOPERATION, AMBASSADOR ROMANOVAKIY TOOK PROFESSOR GJELSVIK ASIDE AND PRESENTED HIM WITH A DRAFT AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE POLAR INSTITUTE AND THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (S.C.S.T.) (TEXT BY SEPTTEL) ROMANOVSKIY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS PROPOSAL AND URGED THAT PROF. GJELSVIK COME PROMPTLY TO MOSCOW TO DISCUSS IT. DRAFT AGREEMENT PROPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS TO MEET AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR IN NORWAY AND THE USSR TO DISCUSS A VERY BROAD WORK PROGRAM INCLUDING RESEARCH IN ALMOST EVERY CONCEIVABLE AREA, EXCHANGE VISITS OF SPECIALISTS, ETC. BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN SAID THAT THE NORWEGIANS PLANNED TO STALL IN RESPONDING TO THIS PROPOSAL BY ARGUING IT IS

PREMATURE TO SET UP SUCH A WORKING GROUP UNTIL IT IS CLEAR FROM CONTACTS BETWEEN THE VARIOUS NORWEGIAN SOVIET INSTITUTIONS THAT THERE ARE REAL PROGRAMS WORTH UNDERTAKING.

5. IN TRANSMITTING THE VARIOUS WORKING DOCUMENTS OF THIS MEETING, BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN ASKED FOR ANY COMMENTS WHICH WE MIGHT HAVE ON THEIR SUBSTANCE, NOTABLY THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP WITH S.C.S.T. ACTION: I BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF WE COULD COMMENT ON OUR EXPERIENCE IN DEVELOPING SIMILAR RESEARCH PROGRAMS WITH THE SOVIETS, INCLUDING ANY CAUTIONARY NOTES WE MAY WISH TO MAKE BASED ON OUR OWN OR OTHERS' BAD EXPERIENCE.
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